(b) Estimated employment in the organised manufacturing sector in the country during the period 2000-2002 is given below:—

Employment in the Organised Manufacturing Sector as on 31st March

Year	Employment (in Lakhs)	Percentage change
2000	66.2	—
2001	64.4	-1.4
2002	62.2	-3.5

Minimum wages for labourers

445. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Minimum Wages (WGMW) has recommended a minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourer;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the WGMW; and

(c) whether Government have prescribed rates from various quarters, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of wages at Government prescribed rates from various quarters; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of minimum wages of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The working Group on Minimum Wages, taking into account the norms in terms of 3 consumption units and per capita requirement of food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous items including children's education, medical requirement etc. as determined by the results of quinquennial Consumer Expediture Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, recommended national minimum wages of Rs. 66/- per day.

(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Governments fix minimum wages in respect of the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction and oversee their implementation. They have requested to ensure that minimum wages fixed by them are not below the national minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day *w.e.f.* 1.2.2004.

Number of unemployed persons

446. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest number of unemployed persons as per the record of enrolment in the employment exchange registers in the country. State-wise;

(b) the categorical status of the unemployed youths on the basis of qualifications, both academic and professional;

(c) the growth of unemployment from the year 2000-01 to the 31st March, 2004; and

(d) the job opportunities Government desire to explore?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) State-wise number of Job-seeker, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st March 2004 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) Education level-wise distribution of Job-seekers as on 31st December 2002 (letest availbale) is given in Statement-II (*See below*)

(c) No. of Job-seekers on the Live Register during the period 2001-2004 is given below:

Year as on 31st March	No. of Job-seekers in thousands
2001	41231.5
2002	41595.6
2003	40746.4
2004	40871.1